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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Letter dated 23 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to tender to you herewith the formal application of the Government of Ireland for admission to membership of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Ireland has been strongly supportive of the work of UNHCR for many years, and intends to continue that support. Our support has been most visibly expressed in our voluntary contributions to UNHCR, both in respect of its general budget and of specific UNHCR relief operations. UNHCR has consistently been a major recipient of our voluntary contributions to United Nations bodies. In recent years, as an expression of that strong support, our annual voluntary contribution to UNHCR has been significantly increased. We have also sought to make a constructive contribution to the operation of UNHCR through our observer status on its Executive Committee. At the practical level, Ireland has cooperated in the work of UNHCR by serving as a country of asylum, most recently for refugees from Viet Nam and former Yugoslavia, and Irish non-governmental relief agencies have also been contributing to the work of UNHCR through their participation in its relief operations.

Having taken those various factors into consideration, the Government of Ireland has decided that the time is now appropriate to apply for membership of the Executive Committee of UNHCR.

I wish to request that the present application for membership be considered under the relevant provisions, and would be grateful if it could be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

(Signed) Dick SPRING
Tánaiste
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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